

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 00190 062030Z

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INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0190

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, BC, ZA, SF

SUBJ: CODEL DIGGS VISIT TO BOTSWANA

1. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS MAINTAINED A VERY TIGHT AND BUSY SCHEDULE DURING HIS VISIT TO BOTSWANA FEB 3-6 AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY GOB OFFICIALS, PRESS, AND GENERAL PUBLIC. TALKS HERE COVERED WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC SUBJECTS. PROGRAM INCLUDED SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT SIR SERETSE KHAMA, VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE, MINISTER STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE, MINISTER AGRICULTURE MASISI AND MINISTER COMMERCE CHIEPE, VISIT TO BOTSWANA MEAT COMMISSION IN LOBATSE, SPEECH AT THE UBL, AND PRESS CONFERENCE AT HOLIDAY INN. RECEPTION IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN HOSTED BY MINISTER STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WELL ATTENDED BY VICE PRESIDENT AND OTHER TOP GOB OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR HOSTED DINNER FOR DIGGS WITH PRESIDENT AND LADY KHAMA AS HONORED GUESTS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF EXCHANGES:

U.S. INTERESTS AND ATTITUDE TOWARD AFRICA

2. MINISTER STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MOGWE SAID MOBUTU'S SPEECH AT THE AFRICA-AMERICAN DIALOGUE IN KINSHASA REFLECTED THE ATTITUDE OF MOST AFRICAN STATES. MOGWE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD SHOW MORE

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GABORO 00190 062030Z

TUDE OF MOST AFRICAN STATES. MOGWE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD SHOW MORE

INTEREST IN AFRICA; IT SHOULD USE ITS GREAT POWER STATUS NOT ONLY TO PROTECT ITS MATERIAL INTERESTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT TO ENCOURAGE MORE MOVEMENT ON THE ISSUES OF HUMAN DIGNITY, EQUALITY AND SELF DETERMINATION. IN PARTICULAR THE UNITED STATES SHOULD PRESS SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS EXPLAINED THAT ONE REASON FOR THE LACK OF INTEREST IN AFRICA WAS THE PREOCCUPATION WITH DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES WHICH HAD REINFORCED THE TENDENCY TOWARD NEO-ISOLATIONISM. DIGGS NOTED THE DIFFICULTY IN FILLING VACANCIES ON THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE AND REFERRED TO SENATOR MUSKIE'S RESIGNATION FROM THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AS REFLECTING THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT IN THE UNITED STATES. DIGGS DID NOT EXPECT ANY FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN U.S. AFRICAN POLICY; HE TOLD THE VICE PRESIDENT LITTLE CHANGE COULD BE EXPECTED IN AID LEVELS; FOREIGN AID HAD BECOME RATHER UNPOPULAR ON THE HILL. DIGGS ALSO NOTED IN TALKS WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA THAT VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER WAS PROGRESSIVE AND INTERESTED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS; DIGGS SPECULATED THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT MIGHT CONSIDER VISITING SOME AFRICAN STATES IN THE FUTURE.

RHODESIA

3. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS CONGRATULATED PRESIDENT KHAMA ON BOTSWANA'S ROLE IN WORKING FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. THE PRESIDENT GAVE DIGGS A DETAILED BRIEFING ON THE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL DISPUTE. HE NOTED THAT THE FOUR PRESIDENTS HAD WORKED HARD TO EFFECT A MERGER OF ZANU AND ZAPU UNDER THE ANC UMBRELLA. ZANU HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT AND WANTED TO CONTINUE THE FIGHTING. THE PRESIDENT QUESTIONED SMITH'S INTENTIONS. HE NOTED THAT SMITH HAD BEEN MAKING PUBLIC STATEMENTS INDICATING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MAJORITY RULE DURING HIS LIFETIME AND RHODESIA SHOULD NOT DEPART FROM CIVILIZED STANDARDS. SMITH SEEMS TO WANT A QUALIFIED FRANCHISE AND A LONG TRANSITION PERIOD UNDER WHICH AFRICANS WOULD GRADUALLY BE BROUGHT INTO THE GOVERNMENT. THE PRESIDENT RECOGNIZED SMITH WAS NOT THE MASTER OF HIS OWN FATE AND HAD PROBLEMS WITH HIS RIGHT WING SUPPORTERS. THE PRESIDENT ALSO COMMENTED THAT SMITH HAD PROBLEMS WITH THE VENUE AND CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

4. THE PRESIDENT SAID PRIME MINISTER VORSTER APPEARED TO VIEW THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA DIFFERENTLY FROM HIS OWN PROBLEM IN SOUTH AFRICA. VORSTER SEEMS TO RECOGNIZE THAT SMITH MUST SETTLE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GABORO 00190 062030Z

ON A BASIS OF MAJORITY RULE. HOWEVER, VORSTER ALSO HAS PROBLEMS WITH HIS OWN RIGHT WING IN SOUTH AFRICA. THESE RIGHT WING ELEMENTS THOUGHT SMITH SHOULD NOT BE LET DOWN; A SHIFT OF POLITICAL POWER IN RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA TO BLACKS WOULD SIMPLY BRING MORE PRESSURE TO BEAR ON SOUTH AFRICA IN THEIR VIEW. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THERE WERE NO SOUTH AFRICAN PAC AND ANC TERRORISTS FIGHTING IN RHODESIA. CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES SIMPLY REINFORCED SMITH'S POSITION. VORSTER HAD STATED HE WOULD NOT WITH-

DRAW FORCES UNTIL CEASE FIRE HONORED. PRESIDENT KHAMA INDICATED THAT THE CEASE FIRE MAY BE THE MAIN SUBJECT TO BE DISCUSSED DURING A MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM THIS WEEK. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SMITH HAD NOT RELEASED ALL DETAINEES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, CONGRESSMAN DIGGS THOUGHT BILL REPEALING THE BYRD AMENDMENT WOULD BE ON THE PRESIDENT'S DESK SOME TIME IN MARCH. HE SAID PRESIDENT FORD WAS ALREADY COMMITTED TO SIGNING THE BILL.

POLICY ON TERRORIST ACTIVITY

6. CONGRESSMAN DIGGS SUGGESTED THAT AFTER MOZAMBIQUE INDEPENDENCE ON JUNE 25 THERE MIGHT BE SOME TERRORIST INCURSION INTO RHODESIA FROM MOZAMBIQUE. DIGGS SAID BOTSWANA MIGHT COME UNDER PRESSURE. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT BOTSWANA HAD ALREADY BEEN UNDER PRESSURE PRIOR TO THE CHANGES IN PORTUGUESE AFIRCA. HE NOTED THAT GOB POLICY HAD BEEN TO MOVE REFUGEES OUT OF BOTSWANA AND NOT TO ALLOW ANY CONCENTRATION.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

7. THE VICE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. HE WAS DISAPPOINTED ABOUT U.S. INABILITY TO FINANCE THE UPGRADING OF NATA-KAZUNGULA STRETCH OF BOT-ZAM ROAD; HE HOPED U.S. WOULD PROVIDE LOAN FINANCING FOR THE NORTHERN ABBATOIR. THE VICE PRESIDENT CALLED ATTENTION TO THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED EC-ACP AGREEMENT UNDER WHICH BOTSWANA WOULD HAVE A TARRIFF FREE QUOTA FOR BEEF IN EC MARKETS BASED ON 1969-74 AVERAGE EXPORTS AND SEVEN PER CENT GROWTH FACTOR. THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS LESS FAVORABLE THAN THE FREE ACCESS TO THE UK MARKET BUT SATISFACTORY. VICE PRESIDENT

NOTED THAT BOTSWANA HAD FREE ACCESS TO SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET FOR BEEF BUT SOUTH AFRICANS NOW WANT AGREEMENT TO GUARANTEE MINIMUM EXPORT QUANTITY. BOTSWANA DOES NOT LIKE THIS PROPOSAL SINCE IT LIMITS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 GABORO 00190 062030Z

ABILITY TAKE ADVANTAGE MORE FAVORABLE PRICES IN OTHER MARKETS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION VICE PRESIDENT SAID SOUTH AFRICANS NEVER ADMIT TO

APPLYING ECONOMIC PRESSURE ON BOTSWANA FOR POLITICAL REASONS; THEIR ACTIONS WERE ALWAYS SUBTLE AND EXPLANATIONS PLAUSIBLE.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

8. MINISTER COMMERCE CHIEPE NOTED BOTSWANA'S INTEREST IN FOREIGN INVESTMENT. SHE SAID BOTSWANA WAS MODERATE AND DEMOCRATIC BUT RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION BY WORLD PRESS; CHIEPE ASSERTED RADICAL AND UNSTABLE REGIMES SEEM TO GET MORE ATTENTION AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. IN THIS EXCHANGE CONGRESSMAN DIGGS ENCOURAGED THE GOB TO CONSIDER RETAINING A QUALIFIED PUBLIC RELATIONS FIRM IN WASHINGTON. DIGGS ASKED MINISTER AGRICULTURE MASISI ABOUT OPIC INTEREST IN LARGE SCALE CATTLE RANCHING. GOB OFFICIALS NOTED THAT LAND POLICY

FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN LARGE SCALE CATTLE RANCHING WAS A VERY
SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUE; HOWEVER, THE GOB IS NOW STUDYING THIS
MATTER.
BOLEN

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